

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 2, 2003. Claims 1 to 9 are in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A Letter Transmitting Formal Drawings accompanies this Amendment, with which two substitute drawing sheets are being submitted. The substitute drawing sheets include the changes required in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 10 to 20, which were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement, have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein and without prejudice to Applicants' right to present these claims in a later-filed division.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failure to provide written description support for the feature of flowing the medium through a medium flow path provided in the solvent "without blowing the medium up through the solvent." The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth at MPEP § 2163.07(a), by disclosing in a patent application a device that inherently performs a function, a patent application necessarily discloses that function, even though it says nothing explicit concerning it. Applicants submit that the device shown in Figs. 1A, 1B and 2 inherently performs the function of flowing the medium 9 through the flow path provided in the solvent 4 without blowing the medium 9 up through the solvent 4. As shown in these figures, the medium 9 is completely contained in the vent hole 3 of the main shaft 2 when

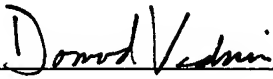
the medium 9 is flowed below the surface of the solvent 4. See page 12, line 9 to page 13, line 1 of the present specification. The main shaft 2 does not have any through-holes which would allow the medium 9 to be "blown up" through the solvent 4.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants conclude that the claimed subject matter is fully supported by the application as filed, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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